

BUY-IN PROGRAMS

Buy-in programs allow the use of public funds to subsidize the purchase of private insurance. Buy-in programs may be directed toward employers, employees, individuals, parents of children eligible under some other program, and groups such as small employers with some maximum number of employees. Public funds may be Title XXI (S-CHIP) or Title XIX (Medicaid).

Under Title XXI (S-CHIP) buy-ins would most likely be found under Section 1115 waivers, S-CHIP Employer Buy-Ins, or S-CHIP Full-Cost Buy-Ins. Under Title XIX (Medicaid) buy-in programs might exist under Section 1115 waivers. Cost-effectiveness tests required under Federal funding guidelines for buy-ins could be established under Title XIX (Medicaid) the Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP).

Buy-ins may also be state-only coverage programs designed and run by the state (or other entity) and funded by states through a variety of methods ranging from direct funding from general revenue funds; portions of specialized funding, e.g. tobacco tax settlement; assessments on HMOs, hospitals, or insurance companies. There could be a wide range of co-pays or deductibles to help defray the cost to health care providers or insurers.